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New 'Smart' Lighting at UCD Makes Parking Greener, Safer, and Energy Efficient

WHAT: Demonstration of a new light-emitting diode (LED) lighting system for the parking structure at UC Davis. Developed at the California Lighting Technology Center (CLTC) at UC Davis, the bi-level lighting system uses energy-efficient lights paired with motion sensors to greatly reduce electricity consumption, light pollution, and increase safety for drivers and passengers.

Fifty (50) fixtures developed by the CLTC will reduce energy consumption by 30-40% and provide a superior visual environment for those using the parking structure. The event will demonstrate the advantages of LED lighting and occupancy sensors over conventional lighting.

WHEN: Monday, Jan. 12, 2009
5 - 5:30 p.m. - Lighting demonstration and ribbon cutting
5:30 - 7 p.m. - Indoor reception and comments

WHERE: Top deck of the South Entry Parking Structure at UC Davis (adjacent to the Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts)

VISUALS: New lighting fixtures, which have two brightness levels -- a lower one for times when sensors detect no people or cars in the area, and a brighter one for times when sensors detect activity.

WHO: Campus, energy utility and industry officials will attend.

James Boyd, Vice Chair of the California Energy Commission

Michael Siminovitch, director of the California Lighting Technology Center at UC Davis

Ben Finkel, program manager of the Energy Efficiency Center at UC Davis

Chris Cioni, associate director of the Utilities Division of UC Davis Facilities Management

Cliff Contreras, director of UC Davis Transportation and Parking Services

Dave Hinshaw, senior account manager for account services, PG&E

Jerry Mix, CEO of Watt Stopper/Legrand, the company supplying the occupancy sensors

Greg Mueller, marketing director of Ruud Lighting/BetaLED, the Wisconsin firm supplying the fixtures.

BACKGROUND:

Nearly one-quarter (22 percent) of the electricity we consume in the U.S. goes to lighting. To better conserve that resource, the California Lighting Technology Center at UC Davis and its partners have designed and installed a new bi-level LED lighting system at UC Davis' South Entry Parking Structure. Compared to conventional incandescent and metal-halide lights, LED lighting is much brighter but uses less energy.

DIRECTIONS / PARKING:

Park free on any level of the South Entry Parking Structure except the top deck.

The South Entry parking lighting takes the efficiency of LED technology and combines it with motion sensors. It is one project of the lighting center's Smart Lighting Initiative. Other projects under way include retrofits of other campus parking structures, as well as pole lights and bollard lights. (Media demonstrations of these other projects can be arranged later; contact Sylvia Wright, below.)

Variations of these smart lighting systems are being tested throughout California. Also, UC Davis and other universities have united to form "LED University" to test and deploy the systems on their campuses. Some of the other LED University participants are: UC Santa Barbara, Tianjin Polytechnic University in China, University of Notre Dame, North Carolina State University and University of Arkansas.

About the California Lighting Technology Center: Part of the Design Program at UC Davis, the center is a research and education facility that focuses on the application of energy-efficient lighting and daylighting technologies through research, development, demonstration, outreach, and education in partnership with utilities, manufacturers, end users, builders, designers and governmental agencies.

The center was established through a collaborative effort of the California Energy Commission's Public Interest Energy Research (PIER) Program and UC Davis, with support from the U.S. Department of Energy and the National Electrical Manufacturers Association.